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Making sense of the world

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

THE WEEK

Junior

BONUS PAGES INSIDE!

BASEBALL BEGINS

After early opening games in Tokyo for two teams, the MLB season is fully underway **p18**

DID YOU KNOW?

- This year MLB celebrates 150 years of baseball history.
- There are a total of 30 teams in the league.
- Each team will play 162 regular-season games.



Major League Baseball superstar Shohei Ohtani



This week's big news

WORD ORIGIN

In Greek mythology, "Gaia" means Earth and is also the name of the goddess of the Earth.



A rendering of Gaia in space

Fifty years of the ESA



The European Space Agency was formed in 1975 and has 23 member countries, two associate members, and one cooperating state (Canada). Its wide range of projects includes rockets, space exploration with human and robotic crews, satellites, and preparation for voyages to the Moon and Mars.

Gaia space telescope signs off

On March 27, after more than 10 years of service, the star-mapping space telescope known as Gaia was shut down by the European Space Agency (ESA). The ESA is an international organization based in France (see box at right).

What is the Gaia telescope?

Gaia (pronounced "guy-uh") is an acronym for Global Interferometer for Astrophysics. The ESA launched the telescope in December 2013 with a mission of making the largest and most precise 3D map of the Milky Way ever created. It orbited the Sun about 930,000 miles from Earth. Gaia had two telescopes, three scientific instruments, and the largest digital camera ever put into space, which created images with nearly 1 billion pixels. By comparison, smartphone cameras take pictures with about 10 million pixels. Gaia was so powerful that it could track objects that are a million times more faint than humans can see with their eyes. The telescope also observed some space objects so precisely that it was like measuring a human hair from more than 600 miles away.

What has it achieved?

Gaia created a huge catalog of nearly 2 billion of the more than 100 billion stars and other objects

in our Milky Way galaxy and beyond, capturing their position, movement, and color. It also mapped millions of potential galaxies and about 150,000 asteroids. Gaia measured vibrations in our galaxy, spotted other moons and fast-moving stars, and found hints of new planets and black holes, including the closest known black hole to Earth. About one third of the data Gaia gathered has been processed and released so far, but even that has enabled astronomers (scientists who study stars, planets, and objects in space) around the world to conduct more than 13,000 studies.

What is its legacy?

Gaia has changed how astronomers understand the universe. It has revealed our Milky Way galaxy's structure and history in detail that has never been seen before. Astronomers have gained a deeper understanding of dark matter, a mysterious substance that affects and shapes the universe. Gaia's data will help researchers for decades to come, refining our knowledge of the galaxy's makeup, history, neighboring exoplanets (planets beyond our solar system), and more. And several newer spacecraft, including NASA's James Webb Space Telescope

and the ESA's Euclid telescope, are using Gaia's findings to fine-tune their observations.

How did people react?

Scientists expressed their appreciation for the telescope's work. "We will never forget Gaia," its mission manager, Uwe Lammers, said in a statement. Gaia scientist Johannes Sahlmann said its data releases "are a unique treasure trove" that will have a profound effect on nearly all areas of astronomy research. "Enjoy the peace, Gaia," Sahlmann said. "Thank you for guiding us to the stars. Thank you for helping us [realize] our dreams. Thank you for inspiring our future."

What will happen next?

Gaia, which was low on fuel, has been deactivated but will remain in space. ESA mission specialists turned off its communications and central computer and sent it into a "retirement orbit" around the Sun. This will minimize the telescope's chances of coming within 6.2 million miles of Earth for at least the next 100 years. Scientists will continue to release data gathered by the telescope. The next batch is set for release in 2026, and its final findings will become available in 2030. The ESA is planning a successor to Gaia—a spacecraft that will collect infrared light (a type of radiation that's invisible to the human eye). That mission is expected to launch in the 2040s.



Gaia being built



Eid al-Fitr marks end of Ramadan

Muslims (people who follow the religion of Islam) around the world began celebrating Eid al-Fitr on March 30 to mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan. During Ramadan, Muslims fast (do not eat or drink) from dawn to sunset. Eid al-Fitr celebrates the end of the fasting period. It begins after the waning crescent moon is sighted.

The Eid al-Fitr festival lasts one to three days and begins after dawn with a prayer service. Traditions typically include eating something sweet, attending prayers, then visiting family and friends and exchanging sweets and gifts. These treats vary around the world. For example, a pudding called *sheer khurma* is prepared in South Asia, while a shortbread cookie called *maamoul* is made in Syria and Jordan.

A greeting during Eid al-Fitr is "Eid Mubarak" ("Blessed Eid"). During the celebration, children wear new clothes, and some girls and women decorate their hands with a temporary natural dye called henna. In parts of the US, including New York City, schools close for the holiday.



Celebrating Eid al-Fitr



A rig shark

CRACK AND SNACK
Rig sharks are a small species with flat teeth that help them crack open crab shells for feeding.

Sharks heard making sounds

In what is believed to be the first documented case of a shark actively producing sounds, scientists recorded rig sharks making clicking noises. Experts had previously believed sharks to be silent.

Carolyn Nieder, a researcher with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, is the lead author of a new study describing the sounds. She made the discovery while working on her PhD (highest educational degree) at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. Nieder was studying sharks' hearing abilities when she noticed rig sharks making crackling sounds when she handled them.

To confirm her observation, Nieder's team placed 10 young rig sharks in a tank with recording equipment. They handled the sharks for about 20 seconds each. When they did so, each shark made about nine short, high-frequency clicking sounds.

Most fish that make sounds do so by vibrating their swim bladder, a gas-filled organ that helps them stay afloat. Sharks don't have this organ, however. Instead, Nieder's team thinks rig sharks can make noise because they have flat teeth, which they snap together. They also believe that the sharks made the sounds because they were alarmed about being handled, rather than as a form of communication. The sharks were otherwise silent, and the noise may be a way for them to distract predators or scare prey.

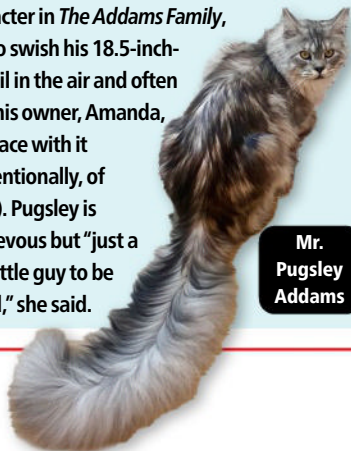
Further research is needed to see if the rig sharks click in a more natural environment and whether other shark species make sounds as well. Nieder told ABC News that she hopes the discovery will make other scientists "keep listening to other animals and species that are deemed silent."



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A TALL TAIL

A 2-year-old Maine Coon cat in Minnesota officially has the longest tail of any living pet cat. Mr. Pugsley Addams, who is named after a character in *The Addams Family*, loves to swish his 18.5-inch-long tail in the air and often swats his owner, Amanda, in the face with it (unintentionally, of course). Pugsley is mischievous but "just a great little guy to be around," she said.



Mr. Pugsley Addams



One of the bandages

BODY ART

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City has teamed up with Band-Aid to create adhesive bandages showing works of art from its collection. The art, by Katsushika Hokusai (above) and William Morris, is intended to "spark curiosity and joy," a museum spokesperson said.

A TASTY TRIBUTE

A new gelato flavor honors Pope Francis, the head of the Catholic Church and a big fan of the frozen dessert. Called "Hallelujah," the flavor is gianduia—a mix of roasted hazelnuts and chocolate—and debuted in Italy the same day Francis left the hospital, where he had spent more than a month fighting pneumonia.



"Hallelujah" gelato



National news



WOW!
There are an estimated 124,903 libraries in the US, including public libraries, school libraries, and other types.

The American Library Association promotes the importance of libraries.

Another book celebration

**CELEBRATE
WE NEED
DIVERSE
BOOKS
DAY!**

We Need Diverse Books, a group founded in 2015, held its first "We Need Diverse Books Day" on April 3. The event highlighted the importance of reading books that feature characters from a variety of backgrounds. The group donated 10,000 titles to US schools and libraries to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

National Library Week set to begin

The American Library Association (ALA), the largest and oldest organization of its kind in the world, is celebrating National Library Week from April 6–12. This year's theme is "Drawn to the Library," which communicates the idea of drawing people into libraries to enjoy what they offer.

What is National Library Week?

National Library Week honors the contributions of libraries, highlights their importance to the communities they serve, and advocates for their support. The event came about in the 1950s, when research showed that Americans were more interested in enjoying radio and television programs than they were in reading books. The ALA decided to create a week to promote reading. This year marks the 67th National Library Week.

How is it being observed?

The ALA has designated days for specific celebrations throughout the week. For example, April 7 is Right to Read Day, during which people can take action to protect the freedom to choose their reading material. The following day is National Library Workers Day to recognize the efforts of library employees. Best-selling authors Raina Telgemeier and Scott McCloud, who co-created *The Cartoonists Club*, are the event's honorary chairs. McCloud said he was excited to promote how stories and art bring people together. "Libraries are critical to that process," he said.

What are communities doing?

Local libraries across the country are marking the week with a variety of activities. A library in the

Fulton County Library System in Atlanta, Georgia, is hosting a scavenger hunt. In Liberty, Texas, the library is holding a fine forgiveness week. People can drop off overdue books without paying a late fee. The library system in Champaign, Illinois, is teaming up with the transit system to offer free rides on buses to those who show their library card.

What will happen next?

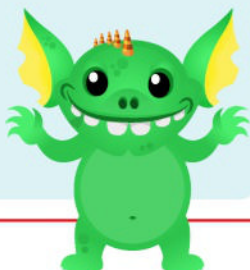
The ALA will continue to promote libraries by organizing book awards, providing scholarships, and hosting events. In September, it will hold Library Card Sign-Up Month to encourage people to use their local library. From October 5 to 11, the ALA will host its annual Banned Books Week. The event brings authors, teachers, librarians, and readers together to support freedom of expression.



WORD OF THE WEEK

GREMLIN

The word "gremlin," an alteration of the word "goblin," became particularly popular during World War II (1939–1945). Pilots would often jokingly blame the mythological creatures for any unexplained problems with their planes.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

April 6, 1980

Post-it Notes debut in stores

On April 6, 1980, Post-it Notes debuted and were an instant success. Art Fry and Spencer Silver had invented the small pieces of paper with re-adherable glue on the back while working as scientists at 3M, a manufacturing company. The Notes' classic yellow paper was chosen because it was the scrap paper in the lab. Today, 50 billion individual Post-it Notes are sold each year in more than 100 countries.





Georgia to ban phones in school

A bill that passed 54–2 in Georgia’s state senate bans the use of phones or electronic devices by students in grades K–8 during the school day. Governor Brian Kemp said he would sign the bill into law. Nine other states, including Florida and Ohio, previously passed bans, and New Mexico, Utah, and other states are drafting similar legislation. Jason Anavitate, a Georgia state senator, said the law was important for improving students’ well-being.



Three of the stamps

Native American culture honored

The US Postal Service (USPS) will release four Forever stamps that honor the cultural traditions of Native American powwows. Powwows are large gatherings where Indigenous people celebrate their identities through dance, prayer, music, and art. The stamps feature paintings by Native American artist Mateo Romero, who based the paintings on photographs he took of performers.



Kermit the Frog

Kermit to speak at graduation

The University of Maryland announced that Kermit the Frog will deliver the commencement speech to the class of 2025 on May 21. The famous Muppet was created by Jim Henson (1936–1990) when he was a student at the university and is now voiced by puppeteer Matt Vogel. Campus officials said they look forward to having Kermit inspire graduates with his wisdom, humor, and optimism.



Singles winners Ilia Malinin (left) and Alysa Liu



MAJOR VICTORY
Dick Button won the men's singles title in 1948, becoming the first American to win a World Figure Skating Championship.

US skaters make history on the ice

The 2025 International Skating Union World Figure Skating Championships took place at TD Garden in Boston, Massachusetts, from March 25 to 30. This was the first time Worlds were held in the United States since 2016, and US skaters had their best showing in history.

Worlds, considered the most prestigious annual competition in figure skating, is the sport's biggest stage after the Olympics. More than 200 athletes from 50 countries arrived in Boston to compete in four events: men's singles, women's singles, ice dance, and pairs.

US skaters dominated, winning gold in three of the four events. In women's singles, Alysa Liu, age 19, became the first American woman in 19 years to claim the title. Her win was even more remarkable because she had retired in 2022 at age 16 and returned last year because she missed competing. Liu won the short program and the free skate, earning nearly 223 points to defeat three-time defending champion Kaori Sakamoto of Japan.

Ilia Malinin, a 20-year-old from the US, won his second consecutive men's singles world title. Known as the "Quad God" for his difficult jumps, he landed six quadruple jumps in his free skate. He and US Olympian Nathan Chen are the only two skaters to ever land six quads in competition.

Madison Chock and Evan Bates became the first US team to win three consecutive world titles in the ice dance event and the first from any country to accomplish this in 28 years. Their jazz-inspired free dance secured gold over Piper Gilles and Paul Poirier of Canada.

In pairs, Riku Miura and Ryuichi Kihara of Japan reclaimed their world title, after making history in 2023 as Japan's first-ever pairs to win gold and then finishing second in 2024.

The event in Boston drew sold-out crowds for multiple days, with locals cheering the success of the American athletes. After winning gold, Malinin told reporters it was "really inspiring to do this in front of the home crowd."



Ice dance winners Madison Chock and Evan Bates

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Truck crash spills corn on Virginia highway" UPI





Around the world



One of the artworks



The Hague, Netherlands Artists re-envision famous painting

The Mauritshuis museum in The Hague is displaying 60 different people's versions of *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, a famous painting by Johannes Vermeer. The new works were submitted for a competition hosted by the museum, which has the original painting in its collection. Thousands of artists from around the world entered their version of the work, featuring a variety of materials including orange peels and bottle caps.

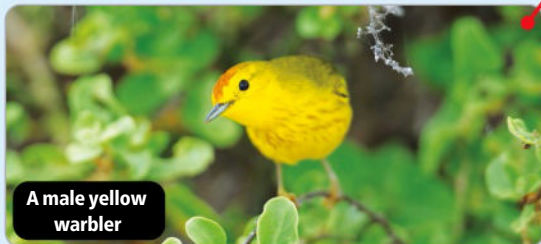


Jair Bolsonaro



Brasilia, Brazil Ex-president to go on trial

On March 26, Brazil's top court voted to put former President Jair Bolsonaro on trial. He is accused of trying to overthrow the government after losing an election in 2022. The trial is expected to happen later this year, and if Bolsonaro is found guilty, he could be sent to prison. At a press conference after the Supreme Court's vote, Bolsonaro denied the charges and said he thought the judges had "something personal" against him.



A male yellow warbler



Galápagos Islands, Ecuador Traffic causes bird rage

A study has found that traffic noise can cause male Galápagos yellow warblers to respond more aggressively to the songs of other males. The researchers think traffic sounds make it more difficult for birds to communicate through song, so instead they approach other males to warn them away from their territory. However, this approach can also lead to a fight.



Neuchâtel, Switzerland Museums as medicine

Residents of Neuchâtel can now get a doctor's note to visit a local museum for free. Based on a report that found that the arts can boost people's mental and physical health, the program allows doctors to issue "museum prescriptions" to patients who could benefit from walking around a gallery or garden to exercise their bodies and minds.



The Neuchâtel Museum of Art and History



Abydos, Egypt Tomb unearthed

Researchers have uncovered a royal tomb in the ancient city of Abydos, about 300 miles south of Egypt's capital. Experts estimate that the tomb, which features a stone burial chamber and a decorated entryway, is about 3,600 years old and most likely belonged to a pharaoh (ruler similar to a king). Although researchers found no identifiable human remains inside, they believe the discovery could reveal more about a long-lost royal dynasty.



The tomb

AP; GETTY IMAGES (5); MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ANTIQUITIES; LAURAN GILLIGAN/PRIMAGE; ALAMY (2)



The rally in Istanbul

Istanbul, Turkey Protests continue

On March 29, hundreds of thousands of people protested against the arrest of Ekrem Imamoglu, Istanbul's mayor. Imamoglu has been charged with several offenses, but many people think he is being detained because he is a rival of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Since protests began on March 19, nearly 2,000 people have been arrested.



A rescue team in Bangkok

Myanmar Rescues begin after devastating quake

A 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit Myanmar on March 28, killing at least 2,700 people and injuring thousands more as buildings and roads were destroyed. Neighboring countries were also affected. In Thailand, an unfinished building in the capital city, Bangkok, collapsed and caused at least 20 deaths. When *The Week Junior* went to press, rescue efforts were underway and several countries, including China, India, and Malaysia, had sent aid.



A Melasti ceremony

Bali, Indonesia Silent holiday is celebrated

On March 29, tens of thousands of Hindu worshippers celebrated Nyepi, the most sacred day of the year. Nyepi is a day of silence. People are instructed not to work, leave their homes, turn on lights, or use electronic devices. There is no public transportation, and residents spend a day in quiet reflection. Nyepi comes after Melasti, a period of purification, when worshippers walk from temples to beaches carrying offerings for the gods.



Floodwaters from above

Queensland, Australia Heavy rain leads to flooding

Some parts of Queensland experienced their worst flooding in 50 years after a period of heavy rainfall caused rivers to overflow. Helicopters flew some people to safety when floodwaters reached their towns. The extreme weather came a few weeks after tropical storm Alfred struck Australia, leaving thousands of homes with no electricity and causing damage to buildings.

Hartbeespoort, South Africa Using beetles as gardeners

Scientists have brought small beetles called weevils from the US to South Africa so the insects can feed on an aquatic plant called salvinia. The plant is native to Central and South America but was introduced to southern Africa, where it has been growing uncontrollably in rivers, lakes, and dams, threatening local wildlife. Experts hope the weevils will control the plant's spread, as they have in the southern US.



A weevil



The big debate

Is it OK to decorate public art?

Some people say there's no harm done, but others think it's just not right.

What you need to know

- Public art includes sculptures, murals, or other artwork displayed in a public place, like a plaza or street. They're usually put there by local officials or governments.
- Some public art is unofficial. British artist Banksy, whose real identity is unknown, has gained international fame for secretly putting up wall paintings around the world.
- "Scarf bombers" leave scarves on statues across the US for anyone who's cold to take for free.



WOW!
There are more than 4,000 public murals in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, earning the city the unofficial nickname of "mural capital of the world."

In December, big sticky googly eyes mysteriously started appearing on public sculptures in Bend, Oregon. The decorations were an online sensation that amused many people. But city officials were not pleased because they had to spend money to clean up and repair the art. They asked whoever was doing this to stop. That person turned out to be Jeff Keith, a Bend resident. He offered to pay for the repairs of two sculptures himself and said his intention was just to make people laugh. While some say Keith's move brought cheer to passersby, others think public property should not be altered in any way. What do you think? Is it OK to decorate public art?

Yes—as long as there's no harm

The very definition of "public" art is that it's there for everyone to enjoy. If people in the community want to modify it to send out a positive or funny message, we should have a laugh instead of complaining about it. If the addition to the art is something like a hat or scarf, it's harmless, can be easily removed, and doesn't cause any permanent damage. Besides, many people just walk past a sculpture or statue without noticing it. But if there's something interesting on it that catches the eye, more people might stop and look at it. That would bring attention to the art—and isn't that the whole point?

No—leave the artist's work alone

You wouldn't walk up to the *Mona Lisa* and stick a fake moustache on her, right? This is no different. Decorating a piece of art is disrespectful to the artist and could change its intended meaning. They agreed to share their work with the world, not let people transform it. Besides, most people aren't art experts. They might think that whatever they're adding to an artwork is harmless, but they could unintentionally cause expensive or permanent damage. And imagine if everyone just started putting their own spin on public artwork. It would get out of hand and make it difficult for officials to maintain or protect it.

YES

Three reasons why it is OK to decorate public art

- 1 "Public" art is meant for everyone to enjoy, so people should be able to add something funny or thoughtful to it.
- 2 Whoever modifies the art can make sure their additions are temporary and the work isn't damaged in any way.
- 3 Decoration might make the art more eye-catching and popular. That's good!

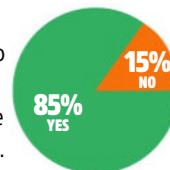
NO

Three reasons why it is not OK to decorate public art

- 1 Art is art, no matter where it is. We should always respect the artist's vision and not meddle with it.
- 2 Unless you're an art expert, you can't be certain you won't unintentionally damage a sculpture or statue by decorating it.
- 3 It would be a problem if everyone just started modifying public art anytime.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, our poll asked if we should use abbreviations. TBH, your feelings were clear: 85% of you said "IMO, yes" to using short words, while 15% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think it is OK to decorate public art or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Finding his groove

Music icon Timbaland brings his signature style to a new animated series.

Timothy Mosley, known as Timbaland, is a record producer with a career spanning more than 30 years. Now, for the first time, he is making music for kids as the executive music producer of *BE@RBRICK*, a new music-driven animated series on Apple TV+ based on the popular collectible figures.

Growing up in Norfolk, Virginia, Timbaland, age 53, always loved music. Inspired by producing legends Quincy Jones and Teddy Riley, he began crafting his style at an early age. "It wasn't just about beats, it was about creating worlds through sound," Timbaland told *The Week Junior*.

A four-time Grammy (top music award) winner, Timbaland rose to success with futuristic, complex beats. He helped define the music of the late 1990s and 2000s,

collaborating with artists like Beyoncé and Justin Timberlake. In 2024, he was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Creating the music for *BE@RBRICK* was a new challenge for Timbaland. The series follows a high schooler named Jasmine and her bandmates as they

pursue their dreams in a world where everyone's future is decided for them. He said he hopes audiences connect with both the music

and the show's message. "It's

about pushing limits, finding your voice, and letting the world hear it," he said.

Timbaland's advice to aspiring musicians and producers is to focus less on fancy equipment or perfection and more on experimenting to find their sound. "I started with a beat machine and a dream," he said.



The new show



Timbaland

FUN FACT
Timbaland's nickname was inspired by the popular waterproof boots called Timberlands.

Leading on the court

Baileigh Sinaman-Daniel, a basketball player for Lesley University in Massachusetts, has made history as the first women's NCAA Division III player with a limb difference to score a field goal (a basket that isn't a free throw). The 22-year-old, who was born with a short right arm, made the historic shot in December and helped her team reach the North Atlantic Conference playoffs for the first time in 14 years. "I would love to be a role model for kids who feel like they don't have a place in this world, because I once felt like that," she said.



Baileigh Sinaman-Daniel



Liu Jiakun

Architect is honored

Liu Jiakun has received the 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize, the world's most prestigious honor in the field. Jiakun, age 68, of Chengdu, China, designs public spaces that connect people and honor cultural heritage, believing architecture can foster "a sense of shared community," he said. His major works include the West Village courtyard in Chengdu, the Suzhou Museum of Imperial Kiln Brick, and earthquake reconstruction projects using recycled materials in China. The Pritzker jury praised Jiakun's work for "architecture that celebrates the lives of ordinary citizens."

OVERHEARD



"You're working while you wait for your dreams to come true."

Tabitha Brown, age 46, an actress, author, and social media personality known for her viral vegan recipes and uplifting messages



Animals and the environment

SLICK TRICK

Some birds of paradise decorate their nests with snake skins, which scare predators away.



A bird of paradise in Papua New Guinea

Two ways to glow

Biofluorescence works only if there is a source of light nearby. But some creatures produce their own light through a chemical reaction—a process called bioluminescence. Fireflies do it to attract a mate, jellyfish glow mainly to deter predators, and anglerfish use it to attract prey.



Jellyfish

The birds that glow in the forest

Birds of paradise are colorful birds found in the rainforests of Papua New Guinea, eastern Indonesia, and eastern Australia. There are 45 known species, and a new study has found that 37 of them can glow using biofluorescence. In this process, a living thing absorbs light and emits it back out as another color, such as bright green, yellow, or red (see box above).

Scientists tested this by looking at preserved bird specimens at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. In a dark room, they moved blue lights over the birds and recorded the type of light that the

birds emitted. The team also shone ultraviolet (UV) light, which can't be seen by humans, on the specimens. The researchers found that 37 of the species they studied were biofluorescent.



A male showing off its feathers

The male birds gave off light from various places, including the feathers on their head, neck, belly, and tail. Some species could also emit light from their mouths and beaks. The females'

biofluorescent patches were mostly on their chest and belly. The light the birds gave off was mostly green, teal, or yellowish.

It's already well known that male birds of

paradise put on a very elaborate show to attract a mate. They perform a dance routine to show off their vivid feathers and prove to the females that they are the best choice. Some of the birds also open their mouths toward females while they dance.

While the biofluorescence might not make the birds look very different to human eyes, it could help them stand out to their fellow birds, which can see more types of light than we can. The researchers said that by making the birds of paradise look brighter, biofluorescence could enhance males' mating displays.

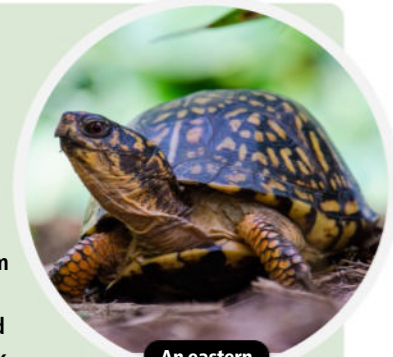
In fact, the team found that in 19 of the species they studied, the males emitted light from the parts of the body they would use during their performance. Rene Martin, the lead author of the study, said, "It seems fitting



PLACE OF THE WEEK

F.D. Roosevelt State Park, Georgia

With 9,049 acres of lakes, creeks, waterfalls, and hiking trails, including the popular 23-mile Pine Mountain Trail, the F.D. Roosevelt State Park is the largest state park in Georgia. The park is named after the 32nd president of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who came to the area to picnic and swim in naturally warm springs nearby for relief from his health issues. Wolves, white-tailed deer, beavers, box turtles, banded water snakes, red-tailed hawks, and butterflies live in the park. The forests are filled with oak, chestnut, and pine trees.



An eastern box turtle



LOTS OF ANTS
There are 2.5 million times as many ants as humans on Earth.

Ants often follow one another.

Why ants don't have traffic jams

For many people, spending time stuck in traffic is an annoyingly unavoidable part of life. Ants, however, are a different story. When moving in large groups, they manage to avoid bumping into each other or getting in each other's way. Two professors from the University of Trento in Italy recently decided to study how they move.

The professors observed a group of ants as they walked along a path to find food. They found that a leader ant first marks a trail by releasing a special chemical called a pheromone. Then the other ants follow that

trail. The ants travel in groups of three to 20 individuals who all move at the same speed and maintain a safe distance from each other. Unlike human drivers, no ants speed up to pass another. This prevents jams in the flow of their movement.

These insights might be able to inspire methods for making vehicles move more efficiently. For instance, researchers suggest that self-driving cars could communicate with each other to form coordinated groups that move together along the roads at a constant speed.

Animal of the week

Andean bear



The San Diego Zoo has teamed up with **Spectacled Bear Conservation**, an organization based in Peru, to study and protect Andean bears, which are famous for inspiring the fictional character of **Paddington Bear**.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 20 to 38 years in human care
- **HABITAT:** The Andes Mountains in South America
- **SIZE:** 4 to 6 feet long, 2 to 3 feet tall
- **DIET:** Mostly plants, honey, snails, and insects
- **FUN FACT:** They are also called spectacled bears because many have whitish fur around their eyes.



Good week / Bad week



New Holland mice

These rare mice have been spotted in Australia's Wollemi National Park for the first time in 20 years. Experts were relieved to learn that the tiny creatures survived massive wildfires that affected the region in 2019 and 2020.



Caribou

Researchers tracked caribou migration patterns over the past 35 years and found that the length of these journeys is shrinking. One of the main causes is loss of habitat due to human activity, such as cutting down trees.

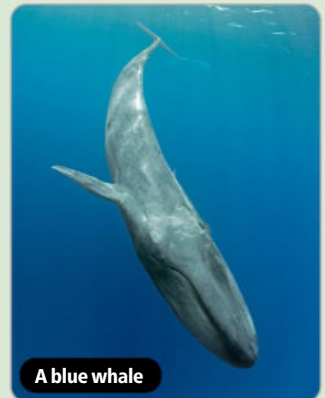


"Why are whales so large?"

Sofia, 13, Florida

Adam Ari Pack
Professor,
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Whales are some of the largest animals: Blue whales can be 100 feet long. Many species travel thousands of miles from feeding grounds to breed in tropical seas. Their size helps regulate heat and allows them to store enough fat to survive long periods of travel and breeding without food.



A blue whale

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about Adam Ari Pack's work at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-DrPack.



A US President with a

Franklin D. Roosevelt was America's 32nd and longest-serving President.

Eighty years after his death, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, often referred to as FDR, remains one of the most influential Presidents in US history.

Early life and career

Roosevelt was born in Hyde Park, New York, on January 30, 1882. He married Anna Eleanor Roosevelt (a distant cousin known as Eleanor) in

1905 and entered politics in 1910 when he was elected to

the New York State Senate. President Woodrow Wilson appointed him assistant secretary of the Navy in 1913, and he served for seven years.

In the 1920 Presidential election, he was the Democratic nominee for Vice President. When the Democrats lost, he returned to private life.

While on summer vacation in 1921, Roosevelt fell ill. He permanently

lost the use of his legs and used a wheelchair for the rest of his life. He

later reentered politics and was elected governor of New York in 1928.

Becoming President

In 1932, Roosevelt ran for President, pledging "a new deal for the American People" during the Great Depression (period from 1929 to the late 1930s when unemployment and poverty

soared). He won the election by more than 7 million votes and began putting his New Deal into place. His policies included creating work programs to give people jobs and increasing regulations on the country's banking and stock market industries. He signed legislation strengthening labor unions and the first national law regulating workers' hours and pay. The New Deal also included the creation of Social Security, an income program for older Americans, disabled people, and others.

MAJOR LANDMARK
Franklin D. Roosevelt's former home in Hyde Park, New York, is a National Historic Site and open to visitors.



As a young boy



A 1932 front page

A life partner and an activist

Eleanor Roosevelt (left) is often cited as the most significant First Lady in US history. Throughout her life, she dedicated herself to helping others. Before her marriage, she taught poor immigrant children in New York City. She traveled the US to see people's living and working conditions, including a 1935 trip to observe dangerous work in coal mines. Her service continued after FDR's death. In 1946, she was appointed as a delegate to the United Nations (UN) and helped draft the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She also continued to speak out for social justice, including advocating for equal pay for women.





All about FDR



vision of hope

BIG START

In his first 100 days as President, FDR passed 15 major pieces of legislation.

PLANNING FOR PEACE

FDR advocated for the creation of a postwar organization that would work for global cooperation and peace. He suggested its eventual name — the United Nations.

In his first Presidential Inaugural address in 1933, FDR famously said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."



"The Big Three"

The World War II era

In 1939, World War II broke out in Europe. The US did not join the war at first. Roosevelt led efforts to provide aid to the Allied forces of the United Kingdom (UK), the Soviet Union, and France. Japan's surprise attack on a US naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, led the US to officially enter the war on the side of the Allies. In 1943, leaders of "The Big Three" nations — FDR, Winston Churchill of the UK, and Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union — met to plan how to defeat Nazi Germany and Japan. As commander-in-chief of the US armed forces, Roosevelt helped plan D-Day, a turning point in the war. Amid racism and wartime fear, however, FDR also issued an order that imprisoned more than 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent in camps for most of the war.

A sculpture of FDR and his dog Fala

THEY (WHO) SEEK TO ESTABLISH SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT BASED ON THE REGIMENTATION OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS BY A HANDFUL OF INDIVIDUAL RULERS. CALL THIS A NEW ORDER. IT IS NOT NEW AND IT IS NOT ORDER.

His death and legacy

The strain of the war took a toll on Roosevelt's health, and he died of a stroke on April 12, 1945, at the age of 63. His death came months after he had begun his fourth Presidential term and weeks before Germany surrendered and the Allies declared victory in Europe. Years later, an amendment to the US Constitution (nation's highest law) was passed that restricted future Presidents from serving more than two terms. After Roosevelt's death, Vice President Harry Truman became President. Today, the New Deal is credited with transforming the role of the federal government, and historians often rank Roosevelt among the greatest Presidents in US history.

Eleanor Roosevelt on a coal mine train

With a document she co-wrote to protect human rights



WOW!

The remains of many woolly mammoths have been found frozen in ice, and some are so well preserved that they still have skin, fur, and tusks.

One of the woolly mice created by researchers at Colossal Biosciences

Scientists create woolly mice in lab

A group of mice with thick, golden-brown hair are adorable—and represent a major scientific breakthrough. The “woolly mice” were created in a lab by a team of scientists who edited the animals’ genes. Genes are short sections of DNA, a chemical that carries all the instructions for how a living thing should grow and develop.

The scientists work for a company called Colossal Biosciences that is aiming to bring a version of the extinct woolly mammoth to life as soon as 2028.

To “de-extinct” the animals, the scientists are editing genes of Asian elephants, which are the closest living relative of woolly mammoths. Colossal said it will use those genes to create a new type of elephant that looks, sounds, and walks like a woolly mammoth.

Testing that process on elephants, however, is impractical, because the animals take about 22 months to gestate (be pregnant with) a baby. Mice, on the other hand, have a gestation period of 20 days. That let the team design, breed, and grow the woolly mice in six months.

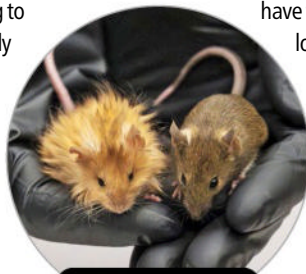
Woolly mammoths, which died out about 4,000 years ago, were able to live comfortably in frigid temperatures because of their thick fur and pockets of fat on their backs that kept them warm.

The team wanted to see if they could re-create some of those features in mice.

For this experiment, the scientists did not add mammoth or elephant genes to mice. Instead, they “switched off” or changed seven of the rodents’ genes. Six of the genes were related to fur texture, length, and color, and one was related to fat. As a result, the genetically modified mice have fur that is wavier and three times longer than a regular mouse’s fur. It is also golden colored, rather than the usual gray. The rodents also had fat similar to mammoths’.

Whether the changes to the mice will keep them warm remains to be seen. “In the next six months, we’ll see if our woolly mice are actually happier in cooler environments, which is the predicted effects of these changes,” said Beth Shapiro, the chief science officer at Colossal.

In addition to the woolly mammoth, the company also hopes to bring back an extinct bird called the dodo and a marsupial known as the Tasmanian tiger. For now, Shapiro described the mouse project as “an incredibly big deal.” She added, “This is really validation that what we have in mind for our longer-term de-extinction project is really going to work.”



A genetically modified mouse (left) and a regular mouse

Why the woolly mammoth?



Colossal thinks woolly mammoths (above), which lived alongside humans for thousands of years before going extinct, should be brought back and could help the Arctic tundra where they once lived. The animals used to stomp over the icy ground, which helped keep it cold. They also grazed on grasses and plants, which supported the entire ecosystem (group of plants and animals that affect one another).

Not everyone thinks de-extincting woolly mammoths is a good idea, however. Critics say the creatures could be lonely and unhealthy, and Colossal may not be able to create enough of them to affect the land and climate. Many wildlife experts believe it would be better to invest time and money saving vulnerable or endangered species that are currently at risk of dying out, before it’s too late.



Oldest tools made of bone are found

Scientists discovered 1.5-million-year-old tools made from animal bones that were crafted by early humans. It's the oldest collection of bone tools ever found and suggests that early humans were smarter than scientists realized.

The tools were found in Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania, Africa. Many prehistoric artifacts have been found there, including thousands of stone tools. Early humans began using pieces of stone as tools about 3.3 million years ago and started making their own stone tools about 1.8 million years ago. They did this with a technique called knapping, using one stone to chip away flakes of another stone to create sharp edges. It required early humans to envision the tools as well as make them.

Scientists expected to find more knapped stone tools at the site. Instead, they were surprised to uncover 27 tools made from the limb bones of large mammals like elephants and hippos.

The tools, which included a hand ax, were crafted with the knapping method. Using the technique would have required the early humans who made them to have a higher level of intelligence and problem-solving ability than scientists thought they had. "It means that human ancestors were capable of transferring skills from stone to bone, a level of complex cognition that we haven't seen elsewhere for another million years," said Renata Peters, co-author of a study describing the tools.

USEFUL OBJECTS
Early humans used stone tools to dig up insects to eat, cut up plants and animals, and make clothing out of animal hides.



A scientist works with the 27 bone tools found in Tanzania.

The image of the Sun rising over the Moon



Lunar sunrise captured by lander

The Blue Ghost lunar lander recently completed a two-week mission on the near side of the Moon. Before shutting down as planned, the lander captured many images, including one (above) of the Sun rising over the lunar surface. In the picture, the Moon is marked with large craters.

The Blue Ghost lander is operated by a company called Firefly Aerospace and is the second private spacecraft to land on the Moon. It

is part of a NASA (US space agency) program to work with private companies. The lander carried 10 scientific instruments that studied dust, rocks, and heat on the lunar surface, as well as six cameras.

Blue Ghost also captured images of a lunar sunset, Earth from afar, and a total lunar eclipse (when Earth blocks the Sun). NASA said it hopes Moon missions with private companies will "help prepare for the next generation of space explorers."



Electric skis that power uphill



The Vipera skis

Winter sports enthusiasts can skip long ski-lift lines and power up to the peak on electric skis. The Vipera ski system has been described as a combination of regular skis and a snowmobile. They're equipped with treads that grip the snow and a strong motor

that propels users through the snow—and even uphill.

Vipera can hit 20 miles per hour and travel up to 10 miles on one charge, depending on conditions. A remote control built into a ski pole lets the adventurer speed up, slow down, or brake.



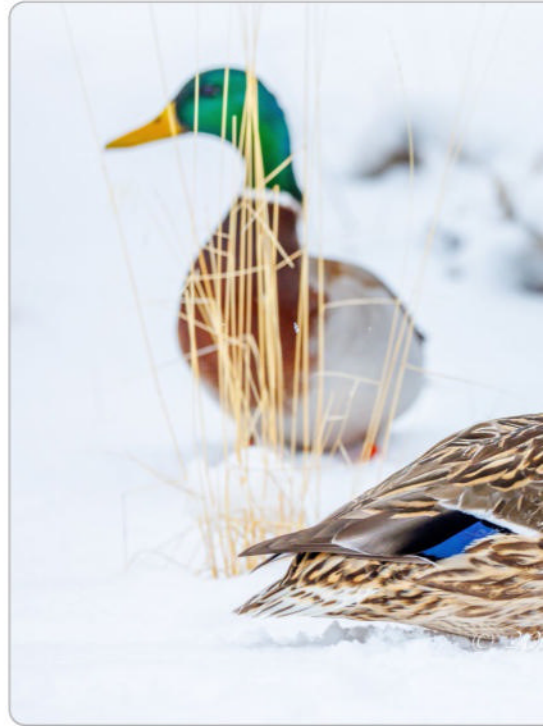
Photos of the week

2025
WILD BIRDS
UNLIMITED
BIRDSPOTTER
PHOTOGRAPHY
CONTEST



Perfect perch

This image of a red-eyed vireo was taken by Nick Saunders.



Winging it

Jacqui Jensen-Roy shot this picture of two rufous hummingbirds in midair.



LEAH TURNER, JANE GAMBLE, JAVIS YUTZY, NICK SAUNDERS, JACQUI JENSEN-ROY, GAVIN HOWARD

Photos of the week



Twice as nice

Janis Yutzy captured this shot of mallards in the snow.



Family bond

This photo of two great horned owls was taken by Leah Turner.



Sitting pretty

This image of an indigo bunting on a sunflower was taken by Jane Gamble.



Strike a pose

Gavin Howard shot this portrait of a California quail.



Sports

HEAVY HITTERS

Many MLB players are now using "torpedo bats," which are designed to help them hit more home runs.

New York Yankees star Aaron Judge hitting a home run on March 29

Tokyo Series success

MLB WORLD TOUR
TOKYO SERIES
2025

The Tokyo Series turned out to be the largest standalone international event in MLB history. Games between the Dodgers and Cubs averaged more than 24 million viewers in Japan. More than 500,000 items were sold at the Tokyo Dome's MLB store, and the bestseller was an Ohtani jersey.

Exciting start to MLB season

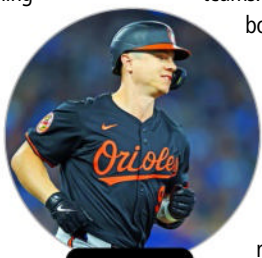
The 150th season of Major League Baseball (MLB) is officially underway. Over the next six months, each of the league's 30 teams will play 162 regular-season games. The reigning World Series champions, the Los Angeles Dodgers, are the favorites to win this year's title. They hope to become the first team to win back-to-back championships since the New York Yankees won three straight titles from 1998 to 2000. Other anticipated top teams include the Yankees, Atlanta Braves, Philadelphia Phillies, and Baltimore Orioles.

The season started early for the Dodgers and the Chicago Cubs, who competed in the Tokyo Series 2025 in Japan on March 18 and 19. The

two-game set was held at the famous Tokyo Dome. While they were there, the teams also competed in exhibition games against local teams. Both MLB teams have Japanese-born players on their rosters, including Dodgers superstar Shohei Ohtani, last year's National League Most Valuable Player (MVP). The Dodgers beat the Cubs in both games, and Ohtani thrilled the crowd by launching his first home run of the season.

Opening Day in the US was March 27.

In the Dodgers' first home game, they beat the Detroit Tigers, 5–4. Ohtani delivered another home run, while teammate Teoscar Hernandez drove in three runs with a homer in the fifth inning.



Tyler O'Neill

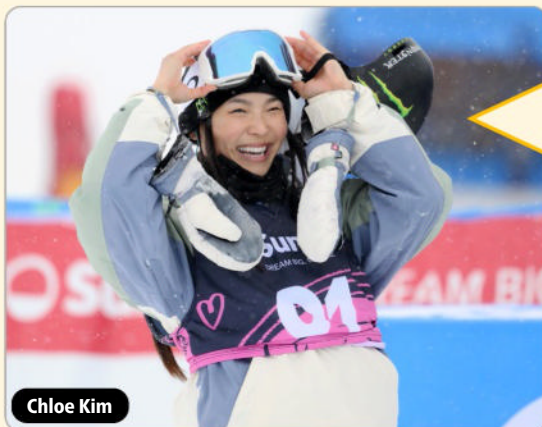
In a thrilling opener in Washington, DC, the Phillies beat the Washington Nationals, 7–3, in extra innings. Meanwhile, in Toronto, Canada, the Orioles crushed six home runs in a 12–2 win against the Toronto Blue Jays. Orioles left fielder Tyler O'Neill hit his sixth consecutive Opening Day home run, the most in a row in MLB history.

The Yankees got off to a strong start at home by sweeping their three-game opening series against the Milwaukee Brewers. In their March 29 game, the Yankees began the bottom of the first with a historic three home runs off the first three pitches. They had nine homers in all and won, 20–9. During the series, the Yankees hit 15 home runs, tying an MLB record for homers in the first three games of a season. Last year's American League MVP, Aaron Judge, hit four of them.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

For the second time in the history of the men's NCAA tournament, all four number one teams advanced to the Final Four. Duke was set to play Houston on April 5, while Auburn was set to meet Florida. In the women's tournament, three number ones made the Final Four—South Carolina, UCLA, and Texas—along with UConn, a number two seed. Their games were set to be played on April 4.



Chloe Kim

SNOWBOARDING

US star Chloe Kim earned a spot at the 2026 Olympics by winning the world championship in the women's halfpipe on March 29, her third world title in the event. In men's action, American Ollie Martin, age 16, won two medals.

COLLEGE SWIMMING AND DIVING

On March 29, the University of Texas won its 16th NCAA men's championship. A week earlier, the University of Virginia won the NCAA women's title for the fifth time in a row.



HOME FIELDS

The US will host the 2031 Men's Rugby World Cup and the 2033 Women's Rugby World Cup.



The New York Exiles' Misha Green-Yotts making the first score in Women's Elite Rugby history

Women's rugby gets new league

A new professional sports league for women has made its debut. Women's Elite Rugby (WER), which has six teams across the US, began its inaugural season on March 22.

Rugby is a sport similar to football. WER teams play the main version of the game, which features 15 players on a side and 40-minute halves. Rugby Sevens, a faster-paced version of the game, is played in the Olympics.

WER is the first pro league of its kind in the US. It evolved out of the former Women's Premier League, an amateur league. A big difference is that the WER athletes are paid to compete. Many of the league's players will represent the US in the 2025 Rugby World Cup, which begins in August. The WER is expected to help raise awareness of the sport in the US.

The season started with a match between the New York Exiles and the Boston Banshees in Mount Vernon, New York. The Exiles were up 17–5 at halftime, but the Banshees came back and won, 29–27. The next day, the TC Gemini (representing Minnesota's Twin Cities) beat the Chicago Tempest, 20–15, in Evanston, Illinois.

All six teams were in action during WER's second weekend. On March 29, the Denver Onyx opened their season at home in Glendale, Colorado, with a 63–7 victory over the Bay Breakers from California's Bay Area. The same day, the Banshees kept up their undefeated record with a 36–10 win over the Gemini in Quincy, Massachusetts. In the final match of the weekend, the Exiles visited the Tempest and defeated them, 48–17, for their first win.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Michael Khrol**

Sport: **Lacrosse**

"My coach is such an encouraging person who wants all his players to thrive and grow. He pushes us to do our best. Even if we lose, he focuses on how we can play better rather than looking at our mistakes. When I was struggling with the new concepts of lacrosse, he gave me one-on-one lessons after practice to help refine my skills. Coach shows love and kindness to every single player and wants us to be the best athletes we can be." Joanna, 12, Massachusetts



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Jasmine Jones

AGE: 23 SPORT: TRACK AND FIELD
TEAM: USA

Making strides My dad played in the NFL, and my mom ran track in high school and college. I joined a track club when I was about 11. At the time, I was too uncoordinated for hurdling, but I retried it when I was about 14 and it was a good fit.

Talent show I also sing, dance, and act. I was busy in high school, going from class to drama rehearsal to track practice, then doing homework, but I loved not having to choose one interest. At USC, where I went to college, they have track and the arts at a high level, and I continued to do it all.



Training plan I run the 400-meter hurdles. In some practices, we work on flexibility, precision, and getting the steps together. On other days, we do conditioning and running.

Power move I'm a girly girl. Before a meet, I do my hair and makeup and make sure I feel as good as I can so I can run as fast as I can.

Good lesson Hurdling is a race with other people, but it's very individual. You have to focus on running your own race and your own hurdles — everybody's path is different. That goes for life, too.

Big moments I won the NCAA national championship last year in the 400 hurdles outdoor. I also competed at the Paris Olympics, which was a dream come true. I placed fourth. One of my goals is to get a medal on the world stage.

Quick tip Starting track young is really fun. Running with friends and people who make you smile can make practice much more enjoyable.



Arts and entertainment

POWERFUL EXPERIENCE

Visitors from 46 states and 16 countries have seen *Anne Frank: The Exhibition* since it opened in January.



Anne Frank: The Exhibition

A look inside Anne Frank's life

The world of the Jewish teen who kept a famous diary during World War II has been re-created in a New York City exhibit.

Anne Frank is one of the most well-known young people in history. During World War II (1939–1945), the Jewish girl and her family lived in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She began keeping a diary at age 13 that covered the two years they spent hiding from the Nazis during the Holocaust (the mass killing of 6 million Jewish people and millions of others).

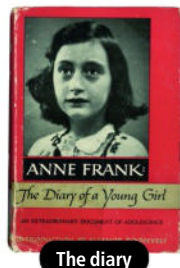
The diary was published in 1947. In 1960, the building where the family secretly lived opened as a museum, the Anne Frank House. Now the museum is presenting

Anne Frank: The Exhibition at the Center for Jewish History in New York City. It includes reconstructions of the rooms where the Franks hid and more than 100 photos and artifacts. It will be open through October before moving to other US cities.

Anne Frank: The Exhibition is the first time the annex has been fully re-created outside Amsterdam. Michael Glickman, exhibition advisor to the Anne Frank House, told *The Week Junior*, “We wanted to bring this story to people who haven’t had the opportunity to engage with Anne the way many people have in Amsterdam.” Walking through the

exhibit, visitors learn about history, the Frank family, and the antisemitism (prejudice against Jewish people) that changed and then destroyed their lives. When the Franks were discovered, they were sent to concentration camps (prisons), and only Anne’s father, Otto, survived.

Glickman said that seeing photos of Anne and hearing her story make her relatable to young visitors, who have felt “a level of impact that I don’t think we could have anticipated.” The war may have ended 80 years ago, but he said helping every generation understand what happened during the Holocaust remains important. “This is our contribution to that,” he said.



The diary

3 books about World War II life

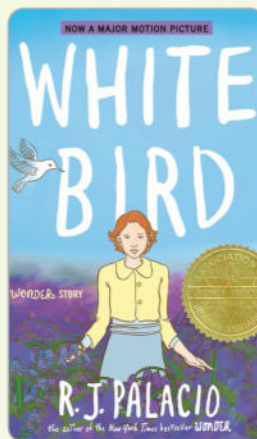
Who Was Anne Frank?

This book, which is part of a popular illustrated biography series, covers Anne Frank’s life before and during her time in hiding, the lasting impact of her diary, and the history of World War II.



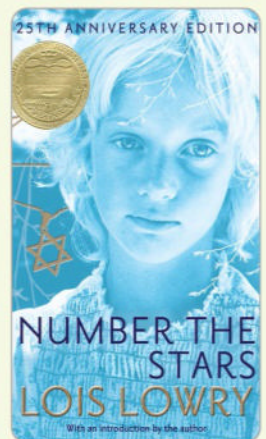
White Bird

R.J. Palacio wrote this graphic novel, which features Julian, the bully from her book *Wonder*. It is a story about kindness and courage told by his grandmother, who hid from the Nazis when she was young.



Number the Stars

This award-winning novel by Lois Lowry is set in Denmark in 1943 and was inspired by real events. It follows a 10-year-old as she and her family help her Jewish best friend.





COMING SOON

Season two of *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* will arrive in December, and a third season is in the works.

The stars of *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*

Top awards for kids' TV shows

The best shows for young people were honored at the Children's & Family Emmy Awards on March 15 in Los Angeles, California. Emmys are one of the most prestigious prizes in television, and they are voted on by members of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

A big winner this year was the Disney+ series *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*. The show, about the adventures of a demi-god and his friends, is based on Rick Riordan's best-selling books of the same name. The series was nominated for 16 awards and won eight, including one for best young teen series. *Percy* stars Walter Scobell (*Percy*), Leah Sava Jeffries (*Annabeth*), and Aryan Simhadri (*Grover*) attended the ceremony, and afterward, Jeffries posted on Instagram, "Guys I literally am so grateful right now you don't even understand!"



Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur

Two more projects based on books also won multiple awards. Netflix's *Orion and the Dark*, an animated story about an anxious boy, won the Emmy for animated special, while actor Jacob Tremblay won for voicing Orion. The Emmy for best fiction special went to Apple TV+'s *The Velveteen Rabbit*, and its young star, Phoenix Laroche, won for his acting.

Among the other Emmy winners were *Marvel's Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur*, which won in the Children's or Young Teen Animated Series category, and *Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock*, which was voted top children's or family viewing series.

A Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Fran Brill, one of the first female puppeteers hired by Jim Henson for *Sesame Street*. She worked on the show for 40 years, created the characters Prairie Dawn and Zoe, and brought them to life.



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Gremlins: The Wild Batch (Max)

New episodes from the show's second season begin streaming on April 10. When Sam, Elle, and Gizmo the magical Mogwai travel from China to the US to track evil Mogwai, they meet figures from American folklore, such as Johnny Appleseed and Calamity Jane.



Wildlife Rehab (Disney+) (Hulu) (Nat Geo Wild)

At Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Saskatchewan, Canada, Jan Shadick, the province's first registered wildlife rehabilitator, cares for rescued animals with her team. This new docuseries follows them as they help animals, including birds, foxes, and a porcupine.



Unicorn Academy (Netflix)

This animated series, based on the books of the same name, is set at a boarding school for unicorn riders. Chapter 3 of the show arrives on April 9 and will follow main character Sophia and her friends as they try to protect Unicorn Island from a new villain, Tabaditha.



READER RECOMMENDS

Gravity Falls

(Disney+, Disney Now, Hulu)

"This is an awesome series about 12-year-old twins, Dipper and Mabel Pines, who visit their money-loving Grunkle Stan in Gravity Falls. The town is full of mysteries and interesting characters, like two staffers at Grunkle Stan's Mystery Shack, Wendy (who Dipper likes) and Soos (a goofy handyman). There are a lot of mysterious monsters, too, like Bill Cipher, a one-eyed floating triangle with arms and legs. Dipper and Mabel battle with many villains, including Gnomes that are in love with Mabel." Matthias, 8, New York

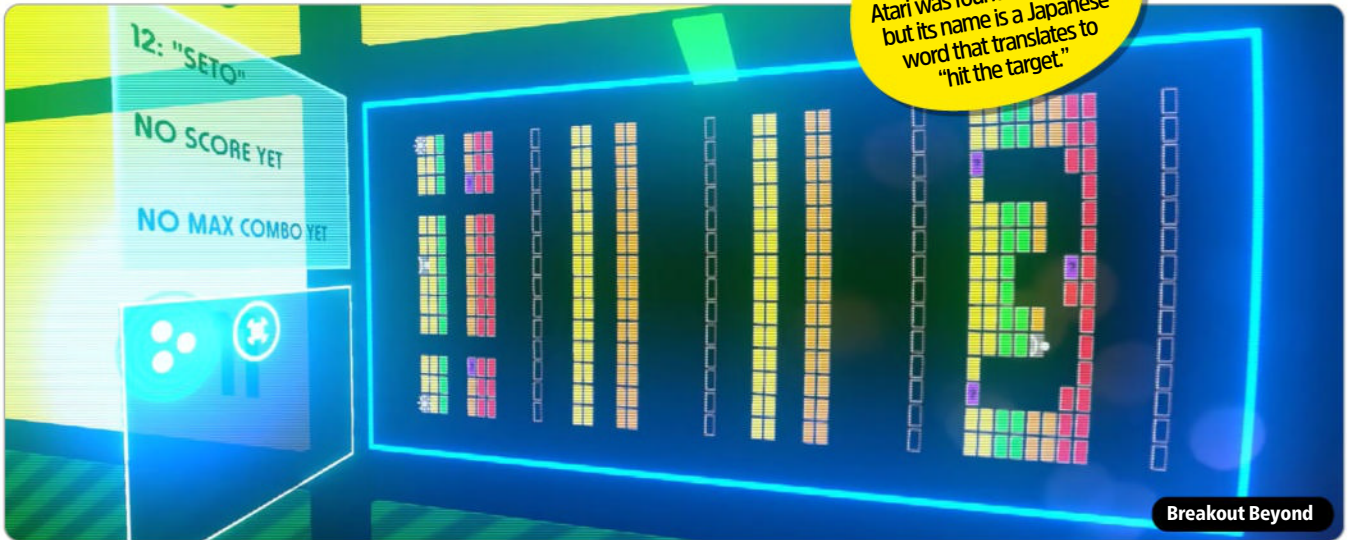


Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



FUN FACT

The video game company Atari was founded in the US, but its name is a Japanese word that translates to "hit the target."



Classic arcade game reimagined

Breakout Beyond is a new arcade game. It is out now for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation platforms, Xbox systems, and PC.

Atari released the original Breakout nearly 50 years ago, and it became a big hit. It was inspired by the company's game Pong and was created in part by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, the founders of the Apple computer company. Breakout was easy to play but hard to master: A player controlled a paddle to deflect a bouncing ball so it would break colorful bricks in a wall. The wall had eight rows, and as more bricks were broken, the ball would speed up and the paddle would get smaller.

The new version of the game keeps the basic concept of the original, but the action has been reimagined to make it

more exciting and challenging. One major change is that the game has been flipped around. Instead of the wall of bricks being at the top of the screen, it is now positioned on the side. There are also big spaces between each layer of bricks where the ball can bounce. The openings make it possible to attack the wall from different angles and create wild combinations of bounces.

Breakout Beyond includes special power-boosting bricks that trigger big blasts, laser cannons, and other exciting effects. There are 72 levels, which you can try to work through alone or by teaming up with a friend or family member. If the frenzy is too much, the game also has a mode that allows players to slow things down to focus on precision moves.



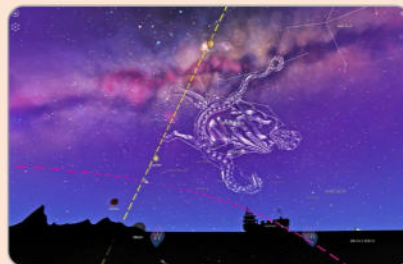
PODCAST OF THE WEEK

ELEANOR AMPLIFIED

Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and other platforms
This action-packed series is created in the style of an old-time radio show, with music and sci-fi thrown in. Eleanor is a brave young reporter who investigates mysteries, faces off against criminal masterminds, and helps listeners of all ages appreciate the importance of journalism.



APP OF THE WEEK



NIGHT SKY

Apple App Store

If you've ever wondered what constellations and planets are overhead, this app can help you figure it out. All you need to do is open it on an iPhone or iPad and point it to the sky. It can also show you where to find man-made objects, such as the Hubble Space Telescope.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD ACCORDING TO CATS

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-HistoryCats

Did you know cats have played an important part in history—and even had jobs on ancient ships? This funny animated video tells the story of how felines went from being wild animals in Egypt to world travelers and then domestic pets.





BOOK OF THE WEEK

Ghost Town

By Eric Colossal

(Abrams Fanfare)

No one can figure out why the electricity keeps going off in Lily's hometown. Her parents are so frustrated that they put their house up for sale and enrolled Lily in a special science academy for the following school year. Lily tries to get out of attending the new school by purposefully failing her science exam, but her plan backfires. Even though she's grounded, one day she hops on her bike to play baseball with her friends. She hits the ball so hard that it travels to an abandoned mansion, breaking a window. When she and her friends walk to the mansion to retrieve the ball, a ghost shoots out a skeleton! After the entire mansion collapses, they discover a paper with instructions on how to build a ghost trap using a bottle, a battery, and a purple crystal. It turns out that there are ghosts all over town who need to be trapped. Lily and her friends can even swallow the ghosts and see some of their last memories. As the friends discover that the spirits are connected to the power outages taking place around town, they devise a plan to restore electricity. With the perfect amount of spookiness, this graphic novel will keep you turning the pages.



ASK THE AUTHOR

Eric Colossal

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

What inspired this book?

I wanted to write what I call a "kids on bikes" story. The characters ride all over the town they live in. This makes them feel like the town is theirs and it's up to them to protect it.

What do you hope kids take away from this book?

You can be complicated and messy. If that means you don't make a good decision, remember you can make a better one next time.

Why do you think ghosts are fascinating?

Ghosts are something that are scary but safe to think about. It feels like they can't really touch me or interact with anything.

Which is harder: writing or illustrating?

For me, writing is harder.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I love eating, so I spend a lot of time cooking. I also *really, really* like to read.



4 books that feature bunnies and rabbits

The fluffy animals in these picks are full of magic, mischief, and more.



Bunnybirds

By Natalie Linn

(Holiday House)

This graphic-novel adventure features bunnies with wings

who practice magic. But when some bunnies begin disappearing, a brave princess travels to a dragon court and through the desert to rescue her friends. If you enjoy the Warriors books, try this new series. Ages 8–12



Cress Watercress

By Gregory Maguire,

illustrated by David

Litchfield

(Candlewick)

A rabbit family moves to the basement of a run-down apartment after their father goes missing while gathering honey. His young daughter wonders whether the new place will ever feel like home again. The illustrations in this novel are beautiful. Ages 8–12



ParaNorthern and the Chaos Bunny A-hop-calyypse

By Stephanie Cooke, illustrated by Mari Costa (Clarion Books)

A young witch accidentally allows a group of adorable but troublesome rabbits to go through a portal into her world. Can the witch and her three friends stop the invasion? The comic panels in this graphic novel are packed with emotion. Ages 8–12



Rabbitology: The Ultimate Encyclopedia

By Ilaria Demonti and Camilla Pintonato

(Princeton Architectural Press)

This nonfiction book is packed with fun facts about rabbits, and it also has amazing illustrations. For instance, did you know a rabbit's hair starts to grow about six days after they are born? You can also learn what it's like to have a rabbit as a pet. Ages 8–12



READER RECOMMENDS

Wonder By R.J. Palacio

"I love this book because it is about accepting others. The main character, August, is struggling in school because he has always been homeschooled, and he also has Treacher Collins syndrome, a rare disorder that causes malformations to his face. I like that the author takes one situation and tells it from everyone's perspective. This book will make you want to cry, laugh, and dance!" Lily, 9, Iowa

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.





Try these spring recipes!

From breakfast to lunch, plus drinks and treats, these fresh dishes are fun to create in the kitchen.

SEASONAL VEGGIE PUFF PASTRY TART

Ingredients

- 10 ounces goat cheese, softened
- ¼ cup heavy cream
- 8 basil leaves, finely chopped
- 4 sprigs mint, leaves plucked and finely chopped
- Zest of 1 lemon
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper
- 1 (14- to 17-ounce) package puff pastry, thawed
- 2 small Roma tomatoes, thinly sliced
- 8 asparagus spears, halved
- ¾ cup sugar snap peas, halved crosswise
- 2 tablespoons olive oil

Instructions

1. Heat oven to 400° F and line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a medium bowl, blend the goat cheese, heavy cream, basil, mint, and lemon zest. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside.



WARNING!

Ask an adult's permission before using a blender, knife, oven, or stovetop for any of these recipes.

3. On a lightly floured cutting board, use a pizza cutter to slice the puff pastry into 8 even rectangles. Arrange 4 of the rectangles on each prepared baking sheet. Use a paring knife to score a line around each rectangle ¼ inch from the edge.
4. Working within score lines, top each pastry with an even layer of cheese mixture. Add tomatoes, asparagus, and snap peas, then drizzle with oil.
5. Bake the tarts until golden and crispy around the edges, about 15 minutes. Serve immediately. Makes 8 servings.



OATMEAL COOKIE OVERNIGHT OATS

Ingredients

- 2 cups rolled oats
- 2 cups oat or rice milk
- ¾ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 teaspoons light brown sugar
- 1¼ teaspoons ground cinnamon
- Pinch of ground nutmeg
- ½ cup golden raisins
- Vanilla yogurt (optional), for serving
- Walnuts (optional), for serving

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, stir together the oats, oat milk, vanilla, sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, and raisins.
2. Evenly divide the mixture between 4 (12- to 16-ounce) lidded jars or serving containers. Seal and refrigerate overnight or up to 5 days.
3. If you like, top with a dollop of vanilla yogurt and a sprinkle of walnuts before eating. Makes 4 servings.

BREAKFAST IS SERVED

Overnight oats are oats that are left to soak during the night instead of being cooked in the morning.



RASPBERRY ITALIAN CREAM SODA

Ingredients

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1½ cups raspberries
- ½ teaspoon vanilla paste
- Plain seltzer
- Heavy cream

Instructions

1. Combine the sugar, raspberries, and vanilla paste in a medium saucepan with 1 cup water. Bring to a simmer and let cook until the sugar is dissolved, about 3 minutes. Remove from the heat and let cool completely.
2. Strain the syrup through a mesh sieve into a lidded jar and discard the solids. Keep syrup refrigerated until you are ready to use. (Makes about 1½ cups of syrup, which can be stored up to 2 weeks in the refrigerator.)
3. To make each drink, spoon 2 tablespoons syrup into a small glass. Fill with ice, then add 1 cup seltzer. Add 2 tablespoons heavy cream and stir to combine. Drink immediately.

BERRY BONANZA

There are more than 200 different varieties of raspberries, with colors like red, purple, black, and gold.

DILL PICKLE DIP

Ingredients

- ¼ cup panko breadcrumbs
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1½ cups sour cream
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1 garlic clove, grated
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh dill, plus more for serving
- ¾ cup chopped dill pickles
- 2 tablespoons ranch dressing seasoning
- 2 tablespoons pickle brine
- Potato chips, for serving

Instructions

1. Ready a small bowl. In a small skillet over low heat, combine the panko and olive oil. Stir frequently, toasting crumbs until golden brown, then transfer immediately to the bowl.
2. In a large bowl, combine the sour cream, mayonnaise, garlic, 3 tablespoons dill, ½ cup chopped pickles, the ranch seasoning, and the pickle brine. Stir to combine. Keep refrigerated until ready to eat.
3. To serve, spoon the dip into a bowl and top with the panko, the remaining chopped pickles, and chopped dill. Serve with chips. Makes 4 to 6 servings.





How to...

CREAMY TOMATO PASTA

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 1½ teaspoons sweet paprika
- 1 (15-ounce) can tomato sauce
- 2 sprigs fresh basil
- 1 (28-ounce) can whole tomatoes
- 1 pound rotini pasta
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- ½ cup heavy cream
- Grated Parmesan, for serving
- Fresh chopped basil, for serving

Instructions

1. With an adult's help, heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onion and cook until softened, about 3 minutes. Add the garlic and cook 1 minute more.
2. Add the salt, pepper, paprika, tomato sauce, and basil. Add the whole tomatoes, breaking

them into smaller pieces once you place them in the pan.

3. Bring the mixture to a simmer and cook until reduced slightly, about 10 minutes. Meanwhile, cook the pasta according to the package directions. Set aside.

4. With an adult's help, use an immersion blender to blend sauce until smooth. Add sugar and cream and stir for about 3 minutes.
5. Add pasta and stir to coat with sauce evenly. Serve immediately with Parmesan cheese and basil for sprinkling. Makes 6 servings.



NOODLES WITH A TWIST
Spiral pasta shapes like rotini, fusilli, and cavatappi cling well to creamy sauces.



BANANA SPLIT SMOOTHIE

Ingredients

- ¾ cup frozen cherries
- ½ cup frozen strawberries
- 1 ripe banana, halved
- 1½ cups almond milk
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon dark cocoa powder
- Vanilla yogurt (optional), for serving
- Chopped walnuts (optional), for serving

Instructions

1. In a blender, combine the cherries, strawberries, banana, almond milk, vanilla, and cocoa powder. Blend ingredients until smooth.
2. Divide evenly between two small glasses. If you like, top with a dollop of yogurt and a sprinkle of walnuts. Serve immediately. Makes 2 servings.

WARNING!

Ask an adult's permission before using a blender, knife, oven, or stovetop for any of these recipes.



3D RAINBOW CUPCAKES

Ingredients

- 12 vanilla or chocolate cupcakes
- 2 cups white frosting
- Blue food coloring
- 6 strips rainbow sour tape candy, cut into 2½-inch strips
- White pearl sprinkles
- White nonpareils

Instructions

1. In a medium bowl, tint the white frosting blue with the food coloring.
2. Working with one cupcake at a time, top it generously with an even layer of blue frosting. Press a strip of sour tape into place to form a rainbow, as shown. Sprinkle each end of the rainbow with pearl sprinkles and nonpareils.
3. Repeat above steps with the remaining cupcakes, frosting, candy, and sprinkles. Makes 12 cupcakes.

NO-EGG CINNAMON TOAST STICKS

Ingredients

- Half large loaf or a whole small loaf whole grain bread, slightly stale
- ¾ cup chickpea flour
- ½ cup almond milk
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- Generous pinch ground nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons coconut oil
- Confectioners' sugar, for serving
- Maple syrup, for serving

Instructions

1. Heat oven to 200° F. Slice the loaf into 1-inch-thick sticks, trimming away the crust if desired.
2. In a baking dish, use a fork to whisk together the flour, milk, cinnamon, nutmeg, and sugar with ¾ cup water.
3. In a large skillet over medium heat, warm 2 teaspoons oil. Dredge 4 of the sticks in the flour mixture. With an adult's help, place them in the pan and cook until golden brown on the underside, about 3 minutes. Flip and cook until golden on the remaining three sides, about 3 minutes more per side.
4. Transfer sticks to a baking sheet and place in the oven to keep warm. Repeat the steps with the remaining bread, flour mixture, and oil.
5. Sprinkle toast sticks with confectioners' sugar and serve warm with maple syrup. Makes 4 to 6 servings.



NICELY SPICED

Cinnamon is native to Sri Lanka and was one of the first spices to be traded internationally.



**SPECIAL
BONUS
SECTION**

Puzzles

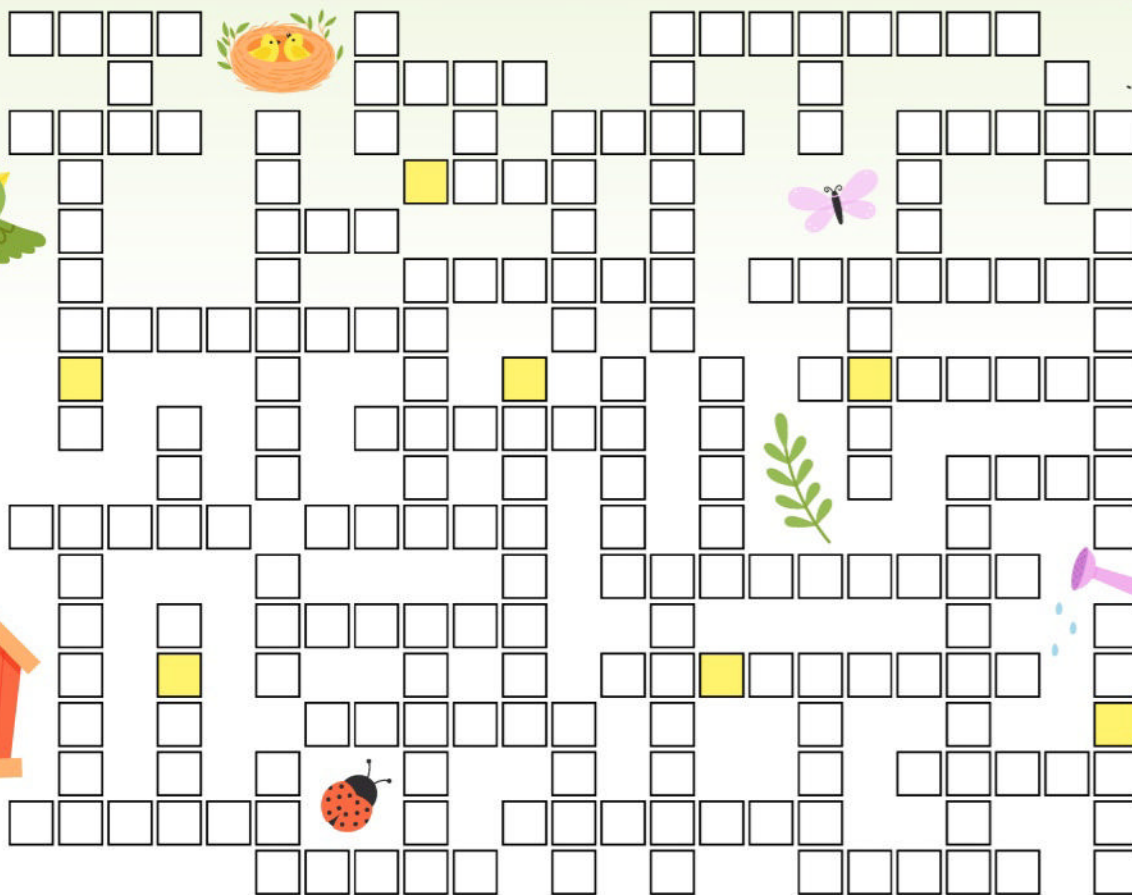


Mind-bending challenges

New start crisscross

NEW ENGLAND. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid? When you're done, transfer the letters in the yellow boxes, in order from left to right, into the boxes below to get the answer to the riddle.

**ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 37.**



3 letters

AGE
CAR
DAD
ERA
KID
LOW
MOM
ONE
TOY

4 letters

BORN
DEAL
FACE
IDEA
MOON
PORT
WAVE
YEAR

5 letters

BLOOD
BREED
BROOM
DELHI
LIGHT
MEDIA
MODEL
ORDER
SHOES
SLANT
TOOTH
WORLD

6 letters

CASTLE
GUINEA
JERSEY
MEXICO
NORMAL
POTATO
RECORD
REGIME

7 letters

ARRIVAL
BALANCE
CLOTHES
EDITION
ORLEANS
RELEASE
WRINKLE

8 letters

ADDITION
ATTITUDE
BALLGAME
CUSTOMER
FRONTIER

9 letters

BRUNSWICK
DIRECTION
HAMPSHIRE

Q: What do the start of spring and the start of school have in common?

A:



Puzzles



DETAILS, DETAILS

Six pieces have been removed from this photo of a farmer's market. Can you match the circular details under the photo with the numbered sections they came from?



A



B



C



D



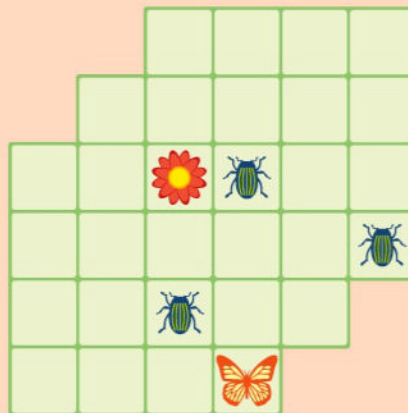
E



F

Garden path

Draw one continuous path from the butterfly to the flower that goes through every box except the ones containing beetles. Your path may not cross itself, and there is only one solution.



Juggling act

Use the letters R, A, and E in any order to complete each four-letter word.

R A E

□ □ □ A

G □ □ □

□ □ V □

□ □ □ N

C □ □ □

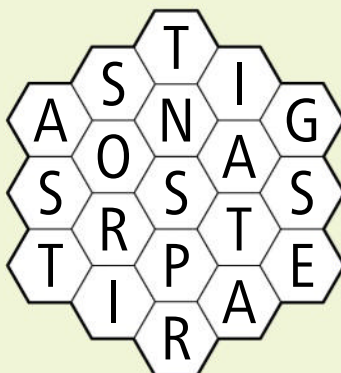
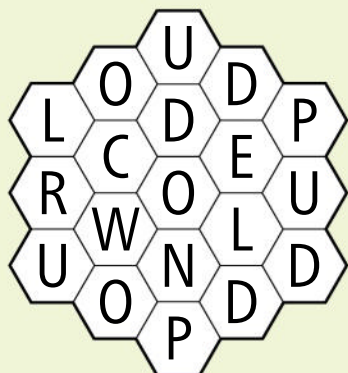
□ □ □ D

Super stepping stones

Each of these figures contains three things that belong to the category shown. To find them, start anywhere and move in an unbroken path to any letter sharing a border (no jumping!), spelling answers as you go. The three words will follow one another in a string until every letter is used.

ASSOCIATED WITH RAINFALL

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAMS





Puzzles



Up close

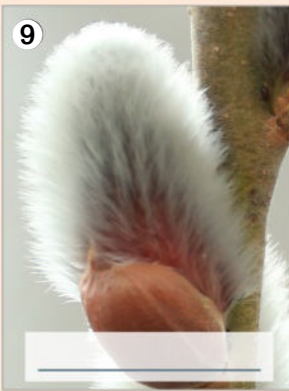
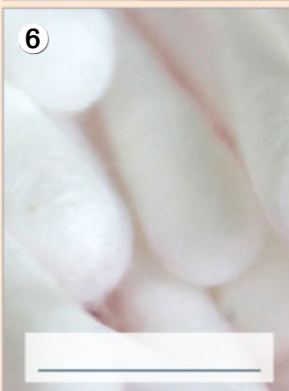
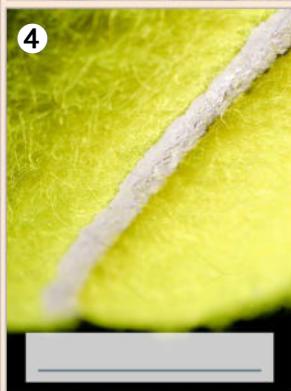
Each of these photos is an extreme close-up of something familiar. Can you recognize each one?

Alpha-pairs

Finish the words by placing each letter of the alphabet in a different box. Some words can be completed with more than one letter choice, but there is only one way to complete the puzzle.

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| | A | I | R | D | |
| | N | Y | H | O | |
| | A | R | A | T | |
| | R | I | E | N | |
| | I | G | Z | A | |
| | A | R | G | I | |
| | P | H | I | N | |
| | O | B | W | E | |
| | U | I | R | K | |
| | E | R | B | A | |
| | N | C | L | I | |
| | U | N | I | O | |
| | M | P | O | R | |

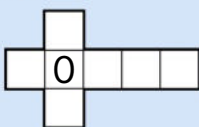
A B C D E F G H I
J K L M N O P Q R
S T U V W X Y Z



DOUBLE OPPOSITES

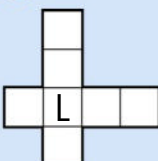
Each word given has two opposites. For example, the opposite of HARD can be EASY or SOFT. Using the letters given beneath each grid, fill in the blanks with both opposites. The letter where they cross is given.

1 LOST



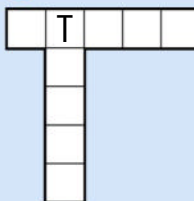
D F N N U W

2 SHARP



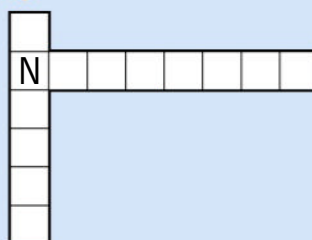
A D F L T U

3 LIE



A D H N R S T U

4 POSITIVE



A E E E G I R S T U U V

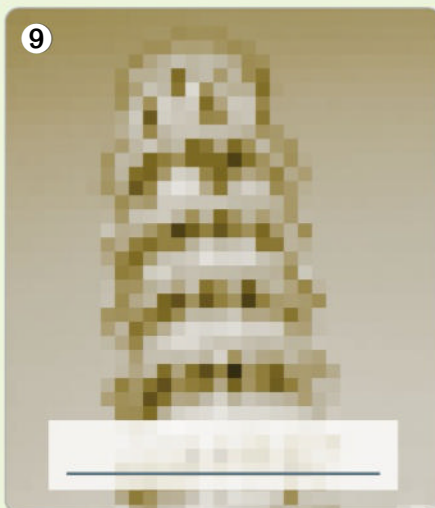
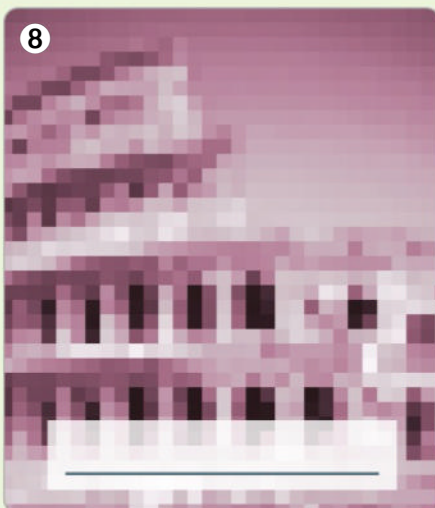
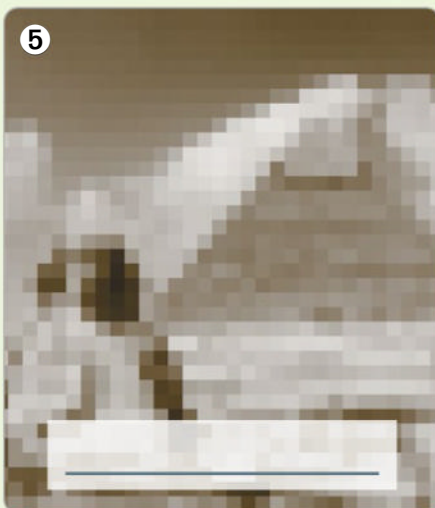
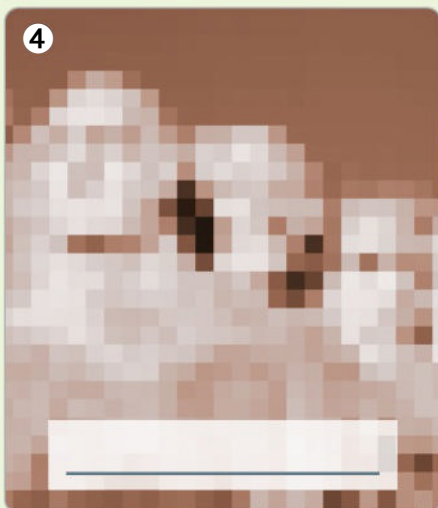
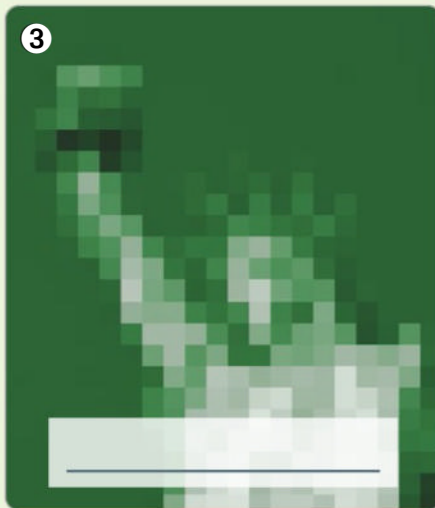
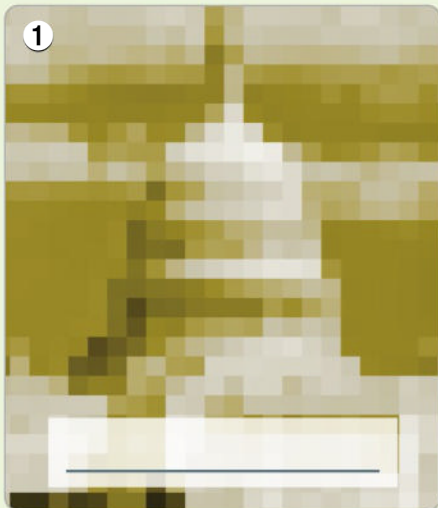




Puzzles

Stand back!

Can you identify these landmarks? Their pictures might look pixelated and blurry, but if you look at them from a distance, you might be surprised at what you discover!





Flower power word ladder

To change the word RICH into the word SOIL, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. Three shaded answer words are all parts of a growing flower. Use the answers before and after those words to figure out the words that belong in those boxes to continue the chain. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.

R I C H

- Side dish in a Chinese restaurant ➤
- Come up, like the sun ➤
- A GROWING FLOWER, PART 3 ➤
- Item unspooled from a fire truck ➤
- Person throwing a party ➤
- Sound from an owl ➤
- Black stuff in a fireplace ➤
- "Give it your best ____" (phrase meaning "Try hard") ➤
- Look for things to buy ➤
- Meaning of a red light ➤
- "Watch your ____" (caution sign) ➤
- A GROWING FLOWER, PART 2 ➤
- Appear to be ➤
- Hide and ____ ➤
- Sneak a look ➤
- Eat the way a chicken does ➤
- Full set of playing cards ➤
- Pier where boats are tied up ➤
- Sway back and forth, like a cradle ➤
- Chess piece sometimes called the castle ➤
- A GROWING FLOWER, PART 1 ➤
- One third of a yard ➤
- Someone mentioned on April 1 ➤
- Wrap for some leftovers ➤

S O I L

Find the match

Can you tell which two of these pictures are the same?



MAGIC SQUARE

The numbers 1–16 can be placed in these boxes so that every row, column, and long diagonal adds up to 34. Some numbers have been placed to get you started. When you're done, the circled box will tell you how many US states start with M. How many can you name?

| | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|----|
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| | <input type="text"/> | 11 | |
| 15 | | 14 | 4 |
| | | | |

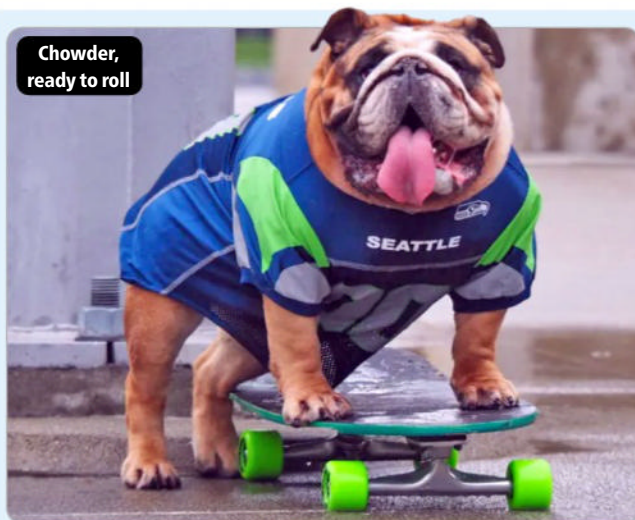
- 1 2
- ~~3~~ ~~4~~
- 5 6
- 7 8
- 9 ~~10~~
- ~~11~~ 12
- 13 ~~14~~
- ~~15~~ ~~16~~



The Pressman family in flight

Floating to world-record fame

Jack Pressman has done a backflip in zero gravity at the age of 8. Pressman has always had a passion for space, so when his family saw a company offering zero gravity flights, they wanted to try it. After training, they boarded the plane and experienced weightlessness 18 times for about 30 seconds each. Pressman, who officially became the youngest person to fly in zero gravity, also tried some tricks midair. "It was really exciting," he told Guinness World Records, "but when you first push off a wall, you just fly superfast and then you need to learn a lot."



Chowder, ready to roll

Chowder the skater dog

Chowder the bulldog was bored with playing fetch. At 2 years old, the Washington pup hopped on a child's skimboard (similar to a surfboard) and rode along the seashore. "It was like he'd been doing it his whole life," owner Jami Delperdang told the *New York Post*. Since they don't live near the ocean, she bought Chowder a skateboard. He taught himself to steer, and now the 9-year-old dog skates down hills every chance he gets. Chowder has even been known to flip his board in frustration after a disappointing ride. Local skaters say, "He's just like us."



It was a poo-dun-it.

Golden toilet mystery solved

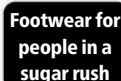
Putting an end to a case flush with history, three men in the UK have been found guilty of stealing a golden toilet. *America*, a work of art by artist Maurizio Cattelan, was a fully functional toilet made from 18-karat gold. Said to be worth up to \$6 million, the sculpture was part of an art in-stall-ation at England's Blenheim Palace when the thieves uprooted it in the middle of the night on September 14, 2019. Cattelan said that although it wasn't exactly "the heist of the century," it was "one of the most bizarre," and he is relieved to see it resolved.



He's a McLegend.

Reaching a Big Mac milestone

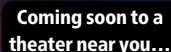
A Wisconsin man recently ate his 35,000th Big Mac burger. Donald Gorske has been a regular at McDonald's since 1972, where staff consider him "part of the McFamily" since he buys the famous sandwich to eat for lunch and dinner every day. He has saved the receipts and boxes from his two daily meals, which have earned him the Guinness World Records title for most Big Mac burgers eaten in a lifetime. Gorske doesn't recommend his diet to others, but he says he will probably keep eating Big Macs "every day for the rest of my life."



Crocs footwear has launched an un-bear-ably sweet new design. The brand worked with the Haribo candy company to create a clog inspired by gummy candies. The shoe's bright coloring resembles some of the original flavors, while images of gummy bears along the sides leave no question about its tasty inspiration. Each pair comes with charms shaped like a bag of Goldbears gummies and oversize versions of the bears themselves. A Haribo rep said the shoe "captures the childlike happiness and nostalgia" of a favorite candy.



A 10-year-old in the UK is getting his share of the pi. To set a world record, Alberto Davila Aragon recited 280 digits of pi—a number with more than 105 trillion known digits—in one minute. Aragon started memorizing pi for a school contest in 2024. He won it with 150 digits, earning the chance to smash a pie in the face of his school's headmaster. Then he set his sights on the world record, which required him to recite the numbers blindfolded. Aragon said he believes anyone can attempt this feat, and “they might even get to pie someone in the face too.”



In India, long waits before a film annoyed one man so much that he filed a legal case against a cinema chain. Abhishek MR complained that he had to sit through 25 minutes of trailers and ads before the start of the film he wanted to see. MR won the case against India's largest movie chain, PVR Inox, which was ordered to pay him \$322 for wasting his time and causing "mental agony." The legal commission said 25 minutes is "a considerable amount of time to sit idle in the theater" and "people with tight schedules do not have time to waste."



Did a champion chicken provide an egg-stravagant prize?

Eggs are getting more expensive everywhere, but one UK farmer took eggflation to a new level when she auctioned off an individual egg for the eye-popping price of \$550. The valuable object was the first egg ever laid by Princess Priss, Alison Greene's renowned show chicken, who has won more awards than any other hen in Europe. The anonymous buyer said he planned to preserve it next to a photo of Princess Priss, whom he called "the world's finest fowl." Is this story true, or are we just yolk-ing around?*

*Fake! Alison Greene did sell an egg for \$550, but it didn't come from an award-winning bird. It was a "one in a billion" perfectly round, sphere-shaped egg that was laid on her farm. The money from the auction was given to a local charity.



Your turn

Editor's note

When *The Week Junior* went to press on April 1, an earthquake had struck Myanmar, causing widespread devastation (p7). With a magnitude of 7.7, the quake was the most powerful to strike the Southeast Asian nation in more than 100 years and could also be felt in other countries, including Bangladesh, India, China, and Thailand, where a large building collapsed in the capital city. Because of a civil war that has been fought in Myanmar since 2021, its people had already been experiencing severe poverty and hunger. Millions had been displaced from their homes. So the earthquake made a dire humanitarian situation even worse. I'm grateful that the world has taken notice. Several governments are sending aid to Myanmar, and nonprofit groups are providing medical care, food, water, and other assistance. Our hearts go out to everyone affected by this crisis, and we hope the people of Myanmar get the help they so urgently need.



Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

On the birding trail

“We’ve been reading *The Week Junior* for three years now, and our favorite issue was Bird Bonanza. We read it on the airplane as we flew to Costa Rica, where we stayed at a research field station right in the jungle. The people at the field station were participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count, just like we had read about in the article! We joined in, too, and learned how to identify birds by their colors, size, and calls. In the end, we counted more than 50 bird species. Thanks so much for inspiring us to explore and learn more about our Earth! It’s sparked a love of birding in all three of us!”



Marietta, 13, Malcolm, 10, and Quincy, 7, California

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
What's as big as a hippo but weighs nothing at all?
A hippo's shadow

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



The Marine Mammal Center

This organization rescues animals in the ocean that are in need of care. It helps them get healthy before returning them to their habitat. The group, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, has rescued more than 26,000 marine mammals in the waters near California and Hawaii. More than 1,400 volunteers help the center do its work. Find out more at marinemammalcenter.org.



Your dream for the nation

Reese, a 9-year-old from Virginia, loves that there are so many places to visit and explore in America. Reese hopes for less pollution in the future. As a reader of *The Week Junior*, you may be forming opinions about your hopes and dreams for America. If so, we want to hear them! Go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to download a form like the one shown at right. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. We'll feature some of the submissions we receive on this page in future issues.

First name Reese Age 9 State VA

What do you love most about America and why?
There are so many things to explore
There is so many places to see and have fun with.

If you could describe America in three words, which words would you choose?
• fun
• Adventure
• helpful

What are some of the hopes you have for our country in 2025 and in the future?
I hope in the future maybe there will not be as much pollution.

Draw a picture of what America looks like to you.
Have fun!
Adventure Outside!
People help others.

THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

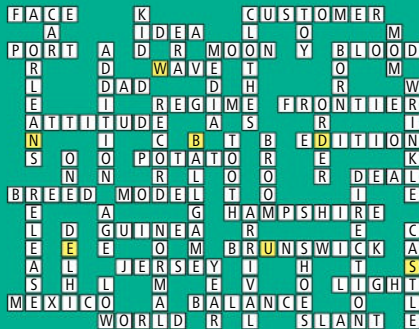
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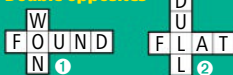
MIND-BENDING CHALLENGES (pages 28-33)

New start crisscross

Riddle answer: NEW BUDS



Double opposites



Juggling act

area
gear
rave
earn
care
read

Details, details



Spot the difference



Stand back!



1 US Capitol 2 Big Ben 3 Statue of Liberty
4 Mount Rushmore 5 Sphinx and the Great
Pyramid at Giza 6 Taj Mahal 7 Eiffel Tower
8 Colosseum in Rome 9 Leaning Tower of Pisa

Flower power word ladder

R I C H
R I C E
R I S E
R O S E
H O S E
H O S T
H O O T
S O O T
S H O T
S H O P
S T O P
S T E P
S T E M
S E E M
S E E K
P E E K
P E C K
D E C K
D O C K
R O C K
R O O K
R O O T
F O O T
F O O L
F O I L
S O I L

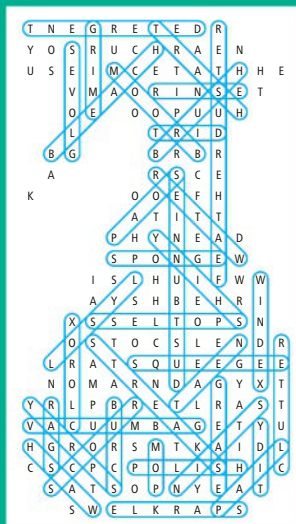
Super stepping stones

Rainfall: cloud, puddle, downpour

Baseball teams: Astros, Pirates, Giants

Spring cleaning word search

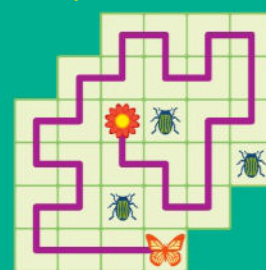
Unused letters: You can use the top rack of the dishwasher to clean many plastic toys.



Alpha-pairs

hairdo
anyhow
karate
friend
zigzag
margin
sphinx
cobweb
quirky
verbal
undip
junior
import

Garden path



Magic square

Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts,
Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi,
Missouri, Montana

| | | | |
|----|----|----|----|
| 5 | 16 | 3 | 10 |
| 2 | 8 | 11 | 13 |
| 15 | 1 | 14 | 4 |
| 12 | 9 | 6 | 7 |

Find the match

Numbers 1 and 5 are the same.



Up close

1 wood screw 2 yo-yo string 3 toast with butter
4 tennis ball 5 gum in foil wrapper 6 Q-tips
7 bubble wrap 8 scrubber sponge 9 pussy willow

Quiz answers (from page 38)

1 a) Maryland 2 Drawn to the Library 3 a) Boston Banshees 4 False. They are the oldest bone tools ever found. 5 b) 8 6 A New Deal 7 True 8 Pong 9 c) Woolly mammoth
10 BE@RBRICK 11 False. It is the second. 12 Rig shark 13 True 14 b) Andean 15 a) Gummy bears



Quiz

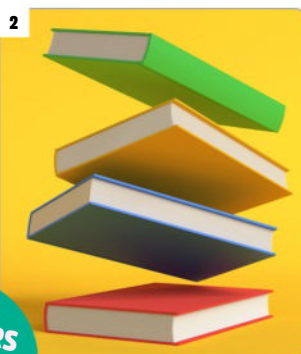
How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Kermit the Frog is set to deliver the commencement speech at which state university?

a) Maryland b) Michigan c) Minnesota

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 What is the theme of this year's National Library Week?



9 Scientists recently bred mice with thick, golden fur as part of an effort to bring back what extinct animal?

a) Dodo
b) Tasmanian tiger
c) Woolly mammoth

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 What is the name of the new animated series being produced by musician Timbaland?

3 Which team won the first match of the Women's Elite Rugby league's first season?

a) Boston Banshees
b) New York Exiles
c) TC Gemini

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 True or false? Tools recently found in Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania date back 1.5 million years and are the oldest stone tools ever found.

True ☐ False ☐

5 How many Children's & Family Emmy Awards did *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* recently win?

a) 4 b) 8 c) 16

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 When Franklin D. Roosevelt ran for President in 1932, what did he pledge for the American people?



11 True or false? This is the first time in the history of the men's NCAA basketball tournament that all four number one seeds made the Final Four.

True ☐ False ☐

12 Scientists recently captured the first-ever recording of sounds made by what species of shark?

13 True or false? The Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, opened as a museum in 1960.

True ☐ False ☐

14 Which real bear species inspired the fictional character of Paddington Bear?

a) Polar b) Andean c) Sun

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 The Crocs footwear company has released a new shoe that is inspired by which candy?

a) Gummy bears
b) Jelly beans
c) Lollipops

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 37.

THE WEEK Junior

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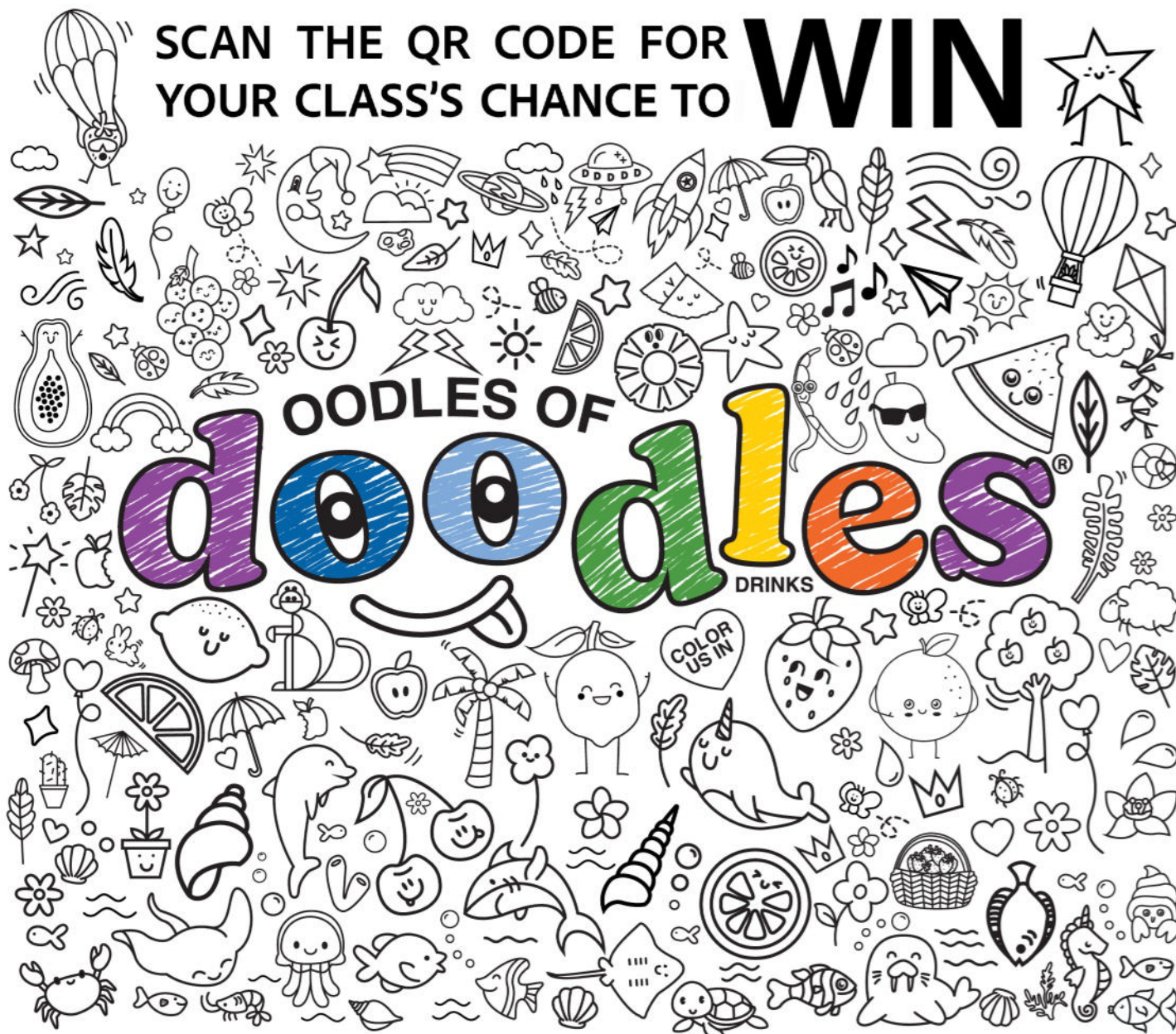
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THE WEEK
Junior





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